

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application and indicating that claims 2-20 contain allowable subject matter.

Applicant notes that the Office Action Summary indicates that claims 1 and 20 are rejected. Applicant respectfully submits that, in view of the detailed action set forth on pages 2-3 of the Office Action, claim 20 should also be indicated as allowable.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-19 were pending in this application. By way of the preliminary amendment dated January 20, 2004, claim 20 was added. By way of this reply, claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, claims 2-20 are pending in this application. Claims 2-4 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 4.

Claim Amendments

Claims 2-4 have been rewritten into independent form. Support for the amendment may be found in, for example, the original claims and no new matter has been added.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 102

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,588,993 ("Babij et al."). Claim 1 has been cancelled in this reply. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 02008.140001).

Dated:

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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